



Washington Kindergarten Inventory
of Developing Skills

Update to the Early Learning Advisory Council



Washington State Department of
Early Learning



ThrivebyFive[™]
WASHINGTON

Bob Hamilton, Deputy Director
Department of Early Learning

September 13, 2010

Why is our state doing this?

- 70,000 children start kindergarten each year in WA
- We want to know what works in supporting successful transitions from early learning into K-12
- Lessons learned in pilot will inform next steps in possibly designing a statewide WaKIDS
- The pilot is NOT a tool to:
 - place children
 - determine whether a child enters kindergarten



2009-2011 state operating budget proviso

- \$100,000 to “identify and test a kindergarten assessment process and tools in geographically diverse school districts. School districts may participate in testing the kindergarten assessment process on a voluntary basis.”
- Report due to Legislature on January 15, 2011
- Matching private funding from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Thrive by Five Washington

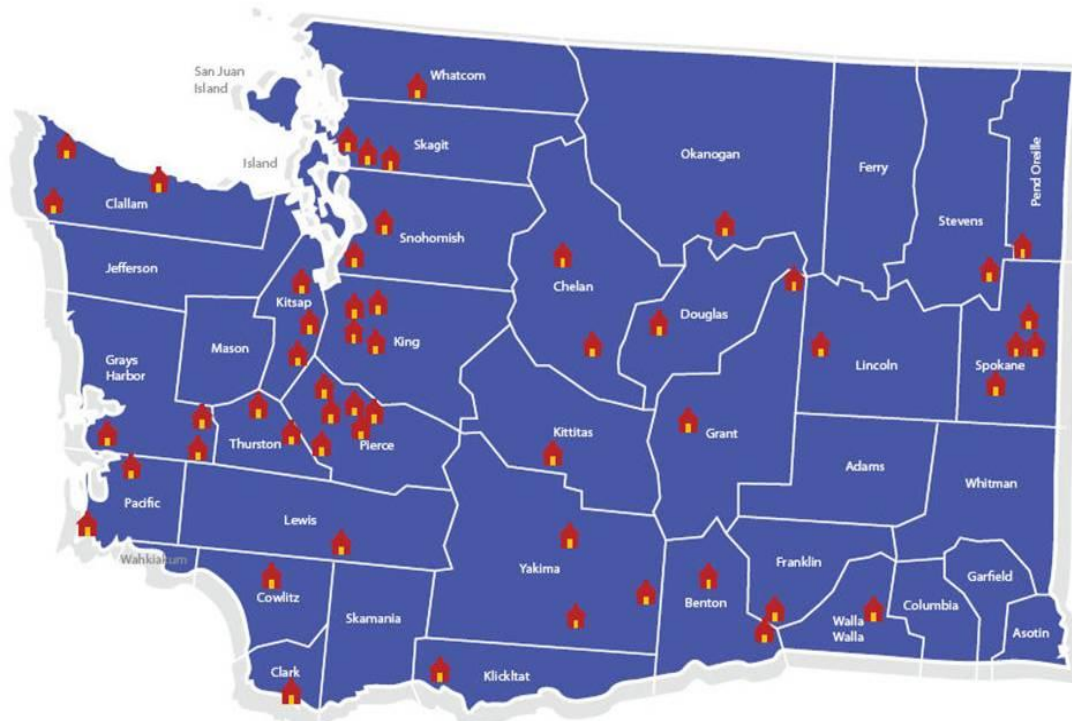


WaKIDS pilot partners

- Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction,
Department of Early Learning, Thrive by Five
Washington
- Voluntary school districts
- WaKIDS Advisory Team:
 - Elementary principals
 - Early care & education professionals
 - Assessment directors
 - Child development specialists
 - Parents
 - Special education specialists
 - Equity/cultural specialists
 - Kindergarten teachers
 - Tribal representatives
 - OSPI, DEL, Thrive, Gates Foundation
- University of Washington

WaKIDS pilot participants

- 120 classrooms in 54 school districts around the state
- 3,000 incoming kindergarteners



The three parts of the pilot:

- Family connection
- Whole child inventory
- Early learning collaboration



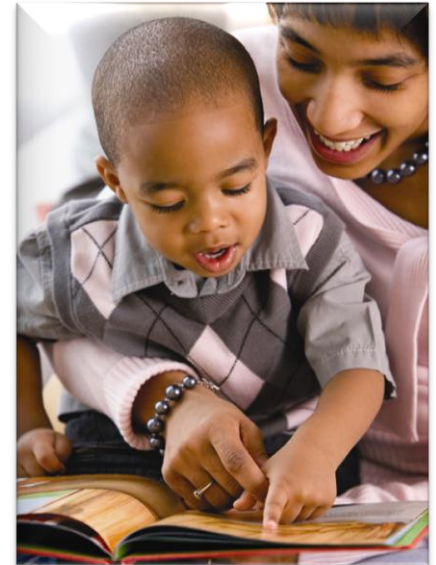
Family connection: Purpose

- Families are welcomed
- Teachers and families begin building strong relationships
- Teachers gather information from families about children
- A “back and forth” conversation with the child at the heart of it



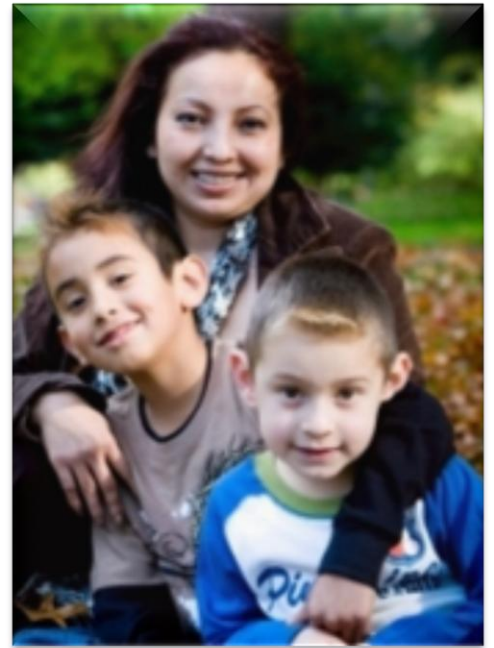
Whole child inventory: Purpose

- Gather information about child's development in 4 domains:
 - Cognitive
 - Linguistic/literacy
 - Physical
 - Social/emotional
- Measure cost/time needed to administer tools
- Inventory tools for pilot
 - Teaching Strategies GOLD
 - Pearson Work Sampling System
 - CTB/McGraw Hill Developing Skills Checklist

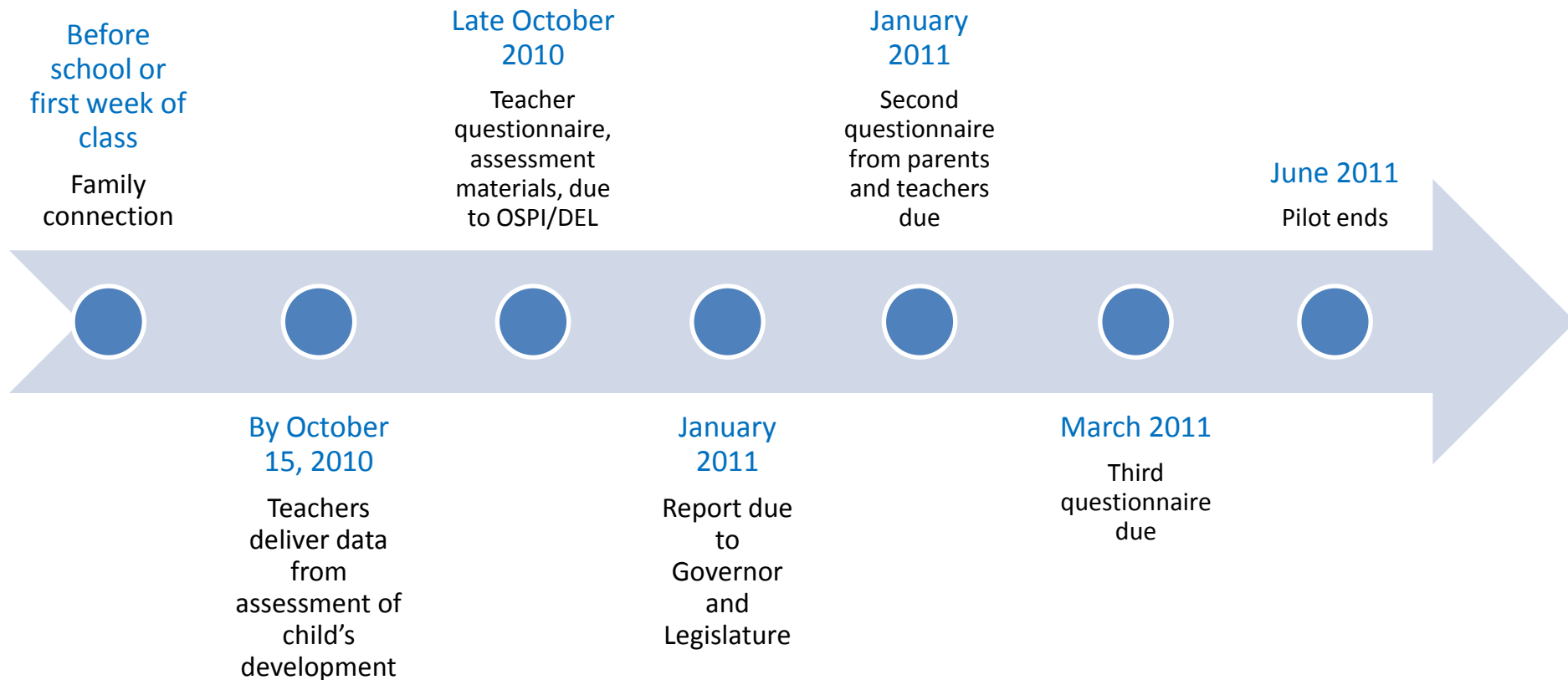


Early learning collaboration: Purpose

- Early learning providers know a lot about the children they've cared for and taught
- Early learning professionals and kindergarten teachers determine processes for exchanging useful information about children to support transition



WaKIDS pilot: Where we are now



Family connection: One teacher's experience

“Each child and family had 45 minutes with their teacher in the classroom. It was wonderful. Got all the details about the child, concerns, goals, etc. and what bus they take home. They went on a tour of the school with their families and met the office staff. Our first day with all 23 students was the smoothest first day I ever had in my 35 years of teaching in GCDS district.”

--Carolyn McNeil, Grand Coulee Dam School District

Questions?



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